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				RAO, DEEPAK R
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NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/538,766	Applicant(s) USUI ET AL.
	Examiner Deepak Rao	Art Unit 1624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20070314 & 20090130

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

1. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a pyrimidone compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof, does not reasonably provide enablement for **hydrate** or **solvate** thereof. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Factual Basis:

1. Specification has no working example of solvate or hydrate of compound of formula (I); and some of the exemplified compounds within the claimed genus were in contact with a solvent and/or water. Yet they have not formed solvate as evident from spectral data provided for these compounds.
2. Searching the pertinent art in the related pyrimidine area did not result in support for such solvates of instant pyrimidine compounds. Searching the more general area of solvates resulted in pertinent reference West applied below. West clearly shows lack of predictability of the art in the solvate area.

Based on these two facts, a scope of enablement rejection follows using relevant Wands

factors. Hence, the burden of establishing the *prime facie* case is met with.

Scope of enablement rejection:

In evaluating the enablement question, several factors are to be considered. Note *In re Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1400 and *Ex parte Forman*, 230 USPQ 546. The factors include: 1) The nature of the invention, 2) the state of the prior art, 3) the predictability or lack thereof in the art, 4) the amount of direction or guidance present, 5) the presence or absence of working examples, 6) the breadth of the claims, and 7) the quantity of experimentation needed.

1. The nature of the invention and the state of the prior art:

The invention is drawn to compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof. Specification is not adequately enabled as to how to make solvate of compounds of formula (I). Specification has no example of solvate or hydrate of the instant compounds. Specification on page 11 recites that ‘solvates and hydrates of the compounds also fall within the scope of the invention’ but there is no enabling disclosure of such hydrates or solvates.

The compound of formula (I) embrace substituted pyrimidinone compounds substituted with variable groups R¹ and R². Careful calculation of the number of compounds embraced in the instant formula (I) shows a large number of compounds. The term “substituted” embraces undefined number of variable groups and thus, the genus embraced by the claims is excessively large and there is no teaching of any solvate or hydrate of this large genus.

Search in the pertinent art, including water as solvent resulted in a pertinent reference, which is indicative of unpredictability of solvate formation in general. The state of the art is that is not predictable whether solvates will form or what their composition will be. In the language of the physical chemist, a solvate of organic molecule is an interstitial solid solution. This phrase

is defined in the second paragraph on page 358 of West (Solid State Chemistry). The solvent molecule is a species introduced into the crystal and no part of the organic host molecule is left out or replaced. In the first paragraph on page 365, West (Solid State Chemistry) says, "it is not usually possible to predict whether solid solutions will form, or if they do form what is the compositional extent". Thus, in the absence of experimentation one cannot predict if a particular solvent will solvate any particular crystal. One cannot predict the stoichiometry of the formed solvate, i.e. if one, two, or a half a molecule of solvent added per molecule of host. Compared with polymorphs, there is an additional degree of freedom to solvates, which means a different solvent or even the moisture of the air that might change the stable region of the solvate. In the instant case of solvate a similar reasoning therefore apply. Water is a solvent and hence it is held that a pertinent detail of West, which relates to solvates, is also applicable to water.

In addition, Vippagunta et al., Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews 48: 3-26, 2001, clearly states that formation of solvates is unpredictable. See entire document especially page 18, right column section 3.4. Note Vippagunta et al., states "Each solid compound responds uniquely to the possible formation of solvates or hydrates and hence generalizations cannot be made for series of related compounds".

Joachim Ulrich (Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology) provides that "Pseudopolymorphs are solvates or in the case of water as solvent, hydrates, which means crystals that incorporate solvent molecules into the crystal lattice. Pseudopolymorphs exhibit different crystal forms and/or different densities, solubilities, dissolution rates, colors, hardnesses, etc. Compared with polymorphs, there is an additional degree of freedom (than temperature and pressure), which means a different solvent or even the moisture of the air that

might change the stable region of the pseudopolymorph".

2. The predictability or lack thereof in the art:

Hence the solvate as applied to the above-mentioned compounds claimed by the applicant are not art-recognized compounds and hence there should be adequate enabling disclosure in the specification with working example(s).

3. The amount of direction or guidance present:

Examples illustrated in the experimental section are limited to making the compounds not related to solvates. There is no example of solvate of instant compound. Many of the exemplified compounds were shown in the specification that have come in contact with water and/or other solvent but there is showing that these compounds formed solvates. Hence it is clear that merely bringing the compound and water or solvent together does not result in solvate and additional direction or guidance is needed to make them - specification has no such direction or guidance.

4. The presence or absence of working examples:

Determining if any particular substrate would form a solvate or hydrate would require synthesis of the substrate and subjecting it to recrystallization with a variety of solvents, temperatures and other parameters. The experimentation is potentially open-ended. The direction concerning the solvates and hydrates is found on page 18, which simply states that 'solvates and hydrates fall within the scope of the invention', however, there is no working example of any hydrate or solvate formed.

The instant claims are drawn to hydrate or solvate, yet the numerous examples presented all failed to produce a solvate or even hydrate. These cannot be simply willed into existence. As

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was stated in *Morton International Inc. v. Cardinal Chemical Co.*, 28 USPQ2d 1190 “[T]he specification purports to teach, with over fifty examples, the preparation of the claimed compounds with the required connectivity. However ... there, is no evidence that such compounds exist... the examples of the patent do not produce the postulated compounds... there is ... no evidence that such compounds even exist.” The same circumstance appears to be true here. There is no evidence that solvates of these compounds actually exist; if they did, they would have formed. Hence, there should be showing supporting that solvates of these compounds exists and therefore can be made.

5. The breadth of the claims & the quantity of experimentation needed:

Specification provides no support, as noted above, for compounds generically embraced in the claim 1 would lead to desired solvate of the compound of formula (I). As noted above, the genus embraces a large number of compounds and hence the claims are extremely broad. The quantity of experimentation needed would be an undue burden on skilled art in the chemical art since there is inadequate guidance given to the skilled artisan for the many reasons stated above. Even with the undue burden of experimentation, there is no guarantee that one would get the product of desired solvate of compound of formula (I) embraced in the instant claims in view of the pertinent reference teachings.

2. Claims 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a medicament which is used for therapeutic treatment of Alzheimer's disease and a method of treating rheumatoid arthritis, does not reasonably provide enablement for a tau protein kinase 1 inhibitor generally; a medicament which is used for preventive and/or

therapeutic treatment of all types of diseases caused by tau protein kinase 1 hyperactivity; or a medicament which is used for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of neurodegenerative diseases; diabetes, obesity, manic depressive illness, schizophrenia, alopecia, breast cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, thyroid cancer, T or B-cell leukemia or a virus-induced tumor generally. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

In evaluating the enablement question, several factors are to be considered. Note *In re Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1400 and *Ex parte Forman*, 230 USPQ 546. The factors include: 1) The nature of the invention, 2) the state of the prior art, 3) the predictability or lack thereof in the art, 4) the amount of direction or guidance present, 5) the presence or absence of working examples, 6) the breadth of the claims, and 7) the quantity of experimentation needed. The determination that “undue experimentation” would have been needed to make and use the claimed invention is not a single, simple factual determination. Rather, it is a conclusion reached by weighing all the above noted factual considerations.

The instant claim 6 is drawn to ‘a tau protein kinase 1 inhibitor’ and claims 7-10 are drawn to ‘a medicament which is used for the preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of a disease caused by tau protein kinase 1 hyperactivity’. When a compound or composition claim is limited by a particular use, enablement of that claim should be evaluated based on that limitation. See MPEP § 2164.01(c). In contrast, when a compound or composition claim is not limited by a recited use, any enabled use that would reasonably correlate with the entire scope of that claim is sufficient to preclude a rejection for non-enablement based on how to use.

The instant claims 7-10 are drawn to ‘a medicament which is used for the preventive

and/or therapeutic treatment of a disease caused by tau protein kinase 1 hyperactivity', and according to the specification, the diseases include neurodegenerative diseases, diabetes, obesity, schizophrenia, alopecia, breast cancer, non-small cell lung carcinoma, etc. The instant claims appear to be 'reach through' claims. Reach through claims, in general have a format drawn to mechanistic, receptor binding or enzymatic functionality and thereby reach through any or all diseases, disorders or conditions, for which they lack written description and enabling disclosure in the specification thereby requiring undue experimentation for one of skill in the art to practice the invention.

The testing assays provided in the specification on pages 43-45 are related to measuring the TPK1 inhibitory activity of the compounds, however, there is nothing in the disclosure regarding how this *in vitro* data correlates to the treatment of the diverse disorders of the instant claims. The diseases and disorders encompassed by the instant claims include neurodegenerative diseases, diabetes, obesity, schizophrenia, alopecia, breast cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, etc., some of which have been proven to be extremely difficult to treat. Further, there is no reasonable basis for assuming that the myriad of compounds embraced by the claims will all share the same physiological properties since they are so structurally dissimilar as to be chemically non-equivalent and there is no basis in the prior art for assuming the same.

Note *In re Surrey*, 151 USPQ 724 regarding sufficiency of disclosure for a Markush group.

Further, the instant claims recite **preventing** and/or treating of diseases caused by tau protein kinase, and there is no disclosure regarding how all these assorted types diseases are treated. See MPEP § 2164.03 for enablement requirements in cases directed to structure-specific arts such as the pharmaceutical art. Receptor activity is generally unpredictable and highly

structure specific area, as evidenced by the wide range of results obtained for the tested compounds. It is inconceivable as to how the claimed compounds can treat the large list of diseases embraced by the claims having diverse mechanisms or inhibit protein kinases generally. Further, there is no disclosure regarding how the patient in need of the treatment requiring the specific protein kinase inhibiting activity is identified and further, how all types of the diseases having diverse mechanisms are treated.

Claims 8-9 recite ‘a medicament for the preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of neurodegenerative diseases’, which covers diverse disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, dementia, hereditary cerebellar ataxias, paraplegias, syringomyelia, phakomatoses, and much more. In fact, Layzer, Cecil Textbook of Medicine (article enclosed), states that “some degenerative diseases are difficult to classify because they involve multiple anatomic locations” (see page 2050). For example, Alzheimer’s disease has traditionally been very difficult or impossible to prevent or even to treat effectively with chemotherapeutic agents. See e.g., the Cecil Textbook of Medicine, 20th edition (1996), Vol. 2, wherein it is stated that “[t]here is no cure for Alzheimer’s disease, and no drug tried so far can alter the progress of the disease.” (pg. 1994). The state of the art reference, Tomizawa et al. provides that “TTK might contribute to the hyperphosphorylation of tau by TPK1/GSK-3 β through the prior phosphorylation of tau in the adult brain and also the AD brain” (see page 226), thus providing some support towards the role of TPK1 inhibitors in Alzheimer’s Diseases. The specification or the state of the art, however, does not provide any support for the **preventive** or therapeutic treatment of all types of neurodegenerative diseases.

The instant claims are further drawn to ‘a method of treating breast cancer, non-small cell lung carcinoma, thyroid cancer, T or B-cell leukemia and a virus-induced cancer’. A ‘cancer’ or ‘carcinoma’ is anything that causes or caused by an abnormal tissue growth. That can be growth by cellular proliferation more rapidly than normal, or continued growth after the stimulus that initiated the new growth has ceased, or lack (partial or complete) of structural organization and/or coordination with surrounding tissue. It can be benign or malignant. Thus, such term covers not only all cancers, but also covers precancerous conditions such as lumps, lesions, polyps, etc. No compound has ever been found to treat cancers of all types generally. Since this assertion is contrary to what is known in medicine, proof must be provided that this revolutionary assertion has merits. The existence of such a “silver bullet” is contrary to our present understanding of oncology. Cecil Textbook of Medicine states that “each specific type has unique biologic and clinical features that must be appreciated for proper diagnosis, treatment and study” (see the enclosed article, page 1004). Different types of cancers affect different organs and have different methods of growth and harm to the body. Also see *In re Buting*, 163 USPQ 689 (CCPA 1969), wherein ‘evidence involving a single compound and two types of cancer, was held insufficient to establish the utility of the claims directed to disparate types of cancers’. Thus, it is beyond the skill of oncologists today to get an agent to be effective against cancers generally.

There is no evidence of record, which would enable the skilled artisan in the identification of the people who have the potential of becoming afflicted with the disease(s) or disorder(s) claimed herein and therefore, require the treatment. Next, applicant’s attention is drawn to the Revised Utility and Written Description Guidelines, at 66 FR 1092-1099, 2001

wherein it is emphasized that ‘a claimed invention must have a specific and substantial utility’.

The disclosure in the instant case is not sufficient to enable the instantly claimed ‘preventing’ and/or ‘treating’ effect of a ‘disease caused by tau protein kinase 1’ solely based on the provided in vitro inhibitory activity disclosed for some of the invention compounds.

The diagnosis of each of the disease is generally suggested by medical history and reports of endoscopy, cytology, X-ray, biopsy, etc. depending on the symptoms, signs and complications, which is essential to establish the dosage regimen for appropriate treatment or prevention. The disclosure does not provide any guidance towards the dosage regimen required to facilitate the treatment and/or inhibition of the claimed disorders, nor indicate competent technical references in the appropriate methods.

Applicants have not provided any competent evidence or disclosed tests that are highly predictive for the pharmaceutical use of the instant compounds. Pharmacological activity in general is a very unpredictable area. Note that in cases involving physiological activity such as the instant case, “the scope of enablement obviously varies inversely with the degree of unpredictability of the factors involved”. See *In re Fisher*, 427 F.2d 833, 839, 166 USPQ 18, 24 (CCPA 1970).

(Only a few of the claimed diseases are discussed here to make the point of an insufficient disclosure, it does not definitely mean that the other diseases meet the enablement requirements).

Furthermore, the scope of the claims is not adequately enabled solely based on the antimicrobial activity provided in the specification. The instant claims are drawn in part to **preventive treatment**, which is not remotely enabled. The instant compounds are disclosed

have TPK1 inhibitory activity and it is recited that the instant medicament is useful in the “preventive treatment” of diseases caused by tau protein kinase 1 hyperactivity, for which applicants provide no competent evidence. “To prevent” actually means *to anticipate or counter in advance, to keep from happening etc.* (as per Websters II Dictionary) and therefore it is not understood how one skilled in the art can reasonably establish the basis and the type of subject to which the instant compounds can be administered in order to have the “preventive” effect. There is no evidence of record that would enable the skilled artisan in the identification of the people who have the potential of becoming afflicted with the disease or disorder claimed herein.

Thus, factors such as “sufficient working examples”, “the level of skill in the art” and “predictability”, etc. have been demonstrated to be sufficiently lacking in the use of the invention. In view of the breadth of the claim, the chemical nature of the invention, the unpredictability of ligand-receptor interactions in general, and the lack of working examples regarding the activity of the claimed compounds, one having ordinary skill in the art would have to undergo an undue amount of experimentation to use the invention commensurate in scope with the claims.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The following reasons apply:

1. In the claims, the term “**pyrimidone derivative**” may be interpreted as a residue derived from the pyrimidone compounds or a modification to the compounds recited in the claims, and it is confusing which compounds are derived from or modified to, from the other ingredients or compounds recited in the claims. Amending the claims to recite -- A **pyrimidone derivative compound** -- (through out the claims) would obviate the rejection.
2. Regarding claim 9, the phrase “c.g.” (or “for example”) (all occurrences) renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).
3. In claim 9, the recitation “other dementia” is not understood. It is not clear what ‘other’ dementia is referred to by this.
4. Regarding claim 9, the phrase “including” (see the phrase “other dementia including vascular dementia”) renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention.
5. Regarding claim 10, the phrase “such as” (all occurrences) renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re*

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Goodman, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-10 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 7,504,411. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims and the reference claims are drawn to structurally analogous compounds, see the claims in each of the application. The reference claims are drawn to pyrimidone compounds represented by formula (I) wherein the pyrimidine is substituted by a 1-piperidine ring (i.e.,

 at the 2-position of the pyrimidine as compared to a 3,6-dihydro-2H-pyridin-1-yl group

(i.e., ) for the instantly claimed compounds. The reference compounds are also taught to be useful as pharmaceutical therapeutic agents, see claims 11-12, which is the same use recited for instantly claimed compounds. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the reference compounds by replacing the fully saturated heterocyclic ring containing a ring nitrogen atom with a partially unsaturated nitrogen heterocyclic ring, because the skilled artisan would have had the reasonable expectation that a

compound containing either of the rings would have similar properties and, thus, the same use as taught for the genus as a whole i.e., as pharmaceutical therapeutic agents. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to select the claimed compounds from the genus in the reference since such compounds would have been suggested by the reference as a whole.

Duplicate Claims

1. Applicant is advised that should claim 1 be found allowable, claim 6 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k). Claim 6 recites the preamble of ‘tau protein kinase 1 inhibitor’, however, does not materially differ from claim 1.

2. Applicant is advised that should claim 5 be found allowable, claims 7-10 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k). Claims 7-10 recite the intended use for the medicament of claim 5 without reciting any steps for the intended use.

Receipt is acknowledged of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on March 14, 2007 and January 30, 2009 and copies are enclosed herewith.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Deepak Rao whose telephone number is (571) 272-0672. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James O. Wilson, can be reached at (571) 272-0661. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Deepak Rao/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1624

March 31, 2009